



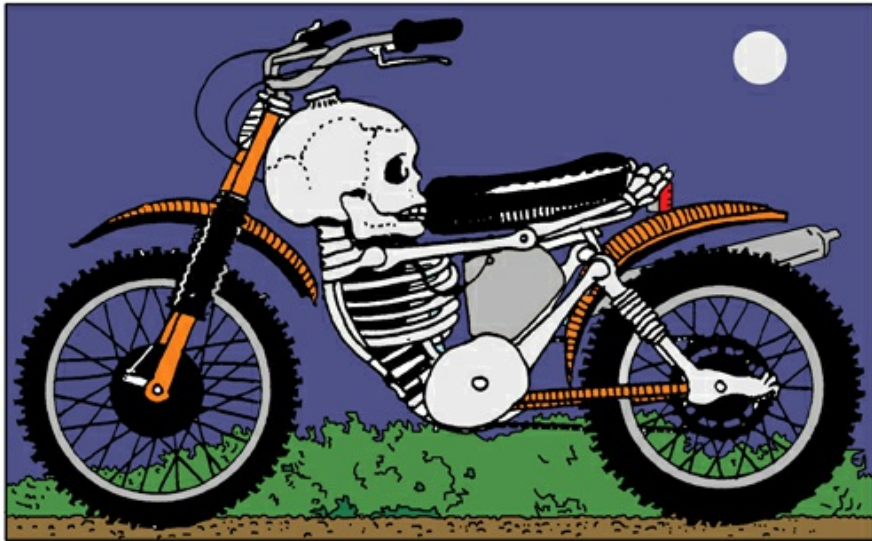
[Quick Login](#) | [Regular Login](#) | [Register](#) | [Neat Stuff](#)

[BLOG](#) | [NEATO HUB](#) | [SHOP](#)

[HOME](#) | [NEATOSHOP](#) | [RSS](#) | [LITE](#) | [TOPICS](#) | [BEST OF NEATORAMA](#) | [NEATO BLOGS](#) | [SUBMIT A LINK](#) | [randomize](#)

Name That Weird Invention!

By Miss Cellania on Oct 25, 2010 at 7:30 am



It's time for another edition of Name That Weird Invention! -this time with a decidedly Halloween theme. Steven M. Johnson comes up with all sorts of wacky inventions in his weekly **Museum of Possibilities** posts. Can you come up with a name for this one? The commenter suggesting the funniest and wittiest name win a free T-shirt from the **NeatoShop**.

Contest rules: one entry per comment, though you can enter as many as you'd like. Please make a selection of the T-shirt you want (may we suggest the **Science T-shirt**, **Funny T-shirt**, and **Artist-designed T-shirt** categories?) alongside your entry. If you don't select a shirt, then you forfeit the prize. Good luck!

COMMENT 0
 EMAIL
 TWEET
 FACEBOOK 0

New Stuff from the NeatoShop:



I Recycle Husbands



Rock Out USB Flash



I'm Savin' Up for a



New and neat stuff from the
NEATOSHOP

Don't Miss: [New Stuff](#) | [Bestsellers](#) | [Science T-Shirts](#)

Samsung Epic™ 4G.
Movies made awesome.
4G is available in 45 markets and counting.
Epic Mini Movies [See them all](#)



LET'S STAY CONNECTED!



Ads by
Google

Lost Dolls

A book of beautiful & tragic images watch the 2-minute video

www.rwfoundimages.com

From the NeatoShop:



When I Grow Up



Dog Years

World's Tallest Climbing Wall

By **John Farrier** on Oct 25, 2010 at 7:16 am



The Excalibur is a climbing wall at the Klimcentrum Bjoeks, a climbing center in Groningen, The Netherlands. It's the tallest climbing wall in the world, standing at 121 feet with a 36-foot overhang.

Photographer Eric Kieboom took many excellent pictures of this wall, 14 of which are available in his Flickr photostream. He suspended his camera from a kite line for the overhead shots.

Official Site (in Dutch) and **Photos** via **OhGizmo!** | Photo: Eric Kieboom



Ads by
Google

Download Google Analytics

Gain traffic and optimize your site with Google Analytics. Free!

www.google.com/analytics

10 Facts You Might Not Know about *Babylon 5*

By **John Farrier** on Oct 25, 2010 at 7:06 am



Babylon 5, which ran from a 1993 pilot movie until its final episode in 1998, has been called the greatest science fiction show ever created. Producer, director, and writer J. Michael Straczynski created a high drama that set a new standard for science fiction television. Here are some things that you might not know about the series:

1. Straczynski planned the entire story arc from the beginning. He kept a written copy of it on a 200-page encrypted computer file. Straczynski never revealed his full plans to his writing team until the very end of the series. He intentionally included red herrings in the plot so that viewers would not be able to predict the outcome of the series.

2. Straczynski wanted to create mature, adult science fiction — not a kids' show. His rule was that any cute kids that appeared in an episode had to be killed off by the end of that episode (e.g. "**Believers**" and "**Confessions and Lamentations**.")

3. The design of Vorlon ships (right) by special effects artist Ron Thornton is based on the shape of a bulb of garlic.



4. In the episodes "**Shadow Dancing**" and "**Z'ha'dum**", Bruce Boxleitner (John Sheridan) played opposite of Melissa Gilbert (Anna Sheridan), John's late wife returned from the dead. In real life, Gilbert and Boxleitner are married.

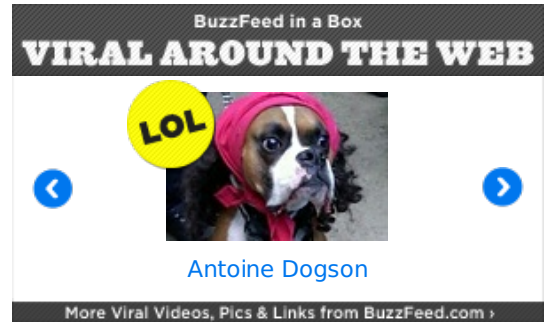
5. Naval personnel in particular were fans of *Babylon 5* because, compared to other science fiction shows, it realistically showed life inside a small metal box far away from home.



Bomb Tea Light Holder



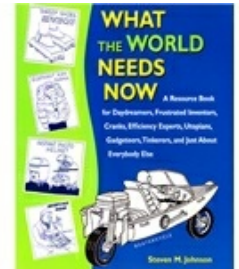
I Recycle Husbands



Geeky Stuff from the **NeatoShop**:



Higher State of Disorganization



What The World Needs Now (Autographed Second Edition)



I Heart Sci-Fi



Bith - Real Mask Magnet



6. The space suit props worn by B5 Starfury fighter pilots were liquid-cooled. The detailed helmets alone cost \$3,000 each.

7. Jerry Doyle's (Michael Garibaldi) favorite episode was "**Points of Departure**" because his character spent the

entire episode in a coma, but Doyle received full salary for that role.

(Video Link)

8. Author Peter David made J. Michael Straczynski a teddy bear wearing a baseball jersey. The shirt was inscribed "Babearlyon 5" on the front and "J.S." (for Joe Straczynski) on the front. Straczynski made it the topic of conversation in a scene between Sheridan and Iyonova.

9. Babylon 5 actors Jerry Doyle (Michael Garibaldi) and Andrea Thompson (Talia Winters) married in 1995.

(Video Link)

10. The Psi Corps recruiting commercial that appears in the episode "**And Now for a Word**" contains a subliminal message that says "The Psi Corps is your friend. Trust the Corps." It's at 1:49.

Sources:

Bassom, David. *Creating Babylon 5*. New York: Random House, 1997.

Lane, Andy. *The Babylon File: The Definitive Unauthorised Guide to J. Michael Straczynski's TV Series Babylon 5*. London: Virgin, 1997.

Images: Warner Bros.



The latest from NeatoBambino:

- Baby Calls Cops On Grandma
- High School Student Rescues Her Science Project
- Circus Gives Special Tour To Visually Impaired
- Graco Stroller Recall
- Kids React to Viral Videos

Don't miss the latest from the **Best of Neatorama**:



Power to the People



Neatolicious Fun Facts: Salem, Massachusetts



The Evolution of the Sneaker



The 13 Best Geek Halloween Costumes



Neatolicious Fun Facts: Wii

Man Collects His Own Belly Button Lint for 26 Years

By **John Farrier** on Oct 25, 2010 at 7:04 am



Over 26 years, Graham Barker of Perth, Australia, collected 22.1 grams of belly button lint. After saving it in three jars, he recently sold his collection to a museum:

"The raw material is worthless but as a unique world record collection and a piece of cultural heritage, of debatable merit, it has some curiosity value," he said.

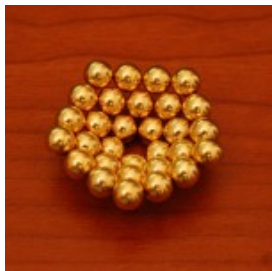
While most people have a positive reaction to his collection there is "a small minority - usually women" who find it unappealing.

Mr Barker said he had come across a handful of other navel fluff collectors, but none had taken their hobby to such lengths. He explained: "One guy might have persisted, but he got married and his wife ordered him to stop."

[Link](#) | Photo: Solent

India Plans to Build the World's Largest Magnet

By **John Farrier** on Oct 25, 2010 at 6:59 am



The largest magnet in the world, located at CERN in Switzerland, weighs 12,500 tonnes. Scientists in India plan to build one weighing 50,000 tonnes in order to do neutrino research:

Neutrinos will interact with the iron - which will be layered in sheets - and spew out charged particles, whose paths will be bent by the iron's magnetic field. About 30,000 detectors sandwiched between the sheets of iron will track these charged particles,

providing information about the incident neutrinos.

INO will initially study atmospheric neutrinos, which are produced when cosmic rays smash into the upper atmosphere.

Unlike most neutrino detectors, such as the Super-Kamiokande in Japan or the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory in Canada, INO will be sensitive to both neutrinos and anti-neutrinos, which interact with matter in different ways.

[Link](#) via [Gizmodo](#) | Photo (unrelated) via Flickr user [sparr0](#) used under Creative Commons license

Bestsellers from the **NeatoShop**:



Buckyballs



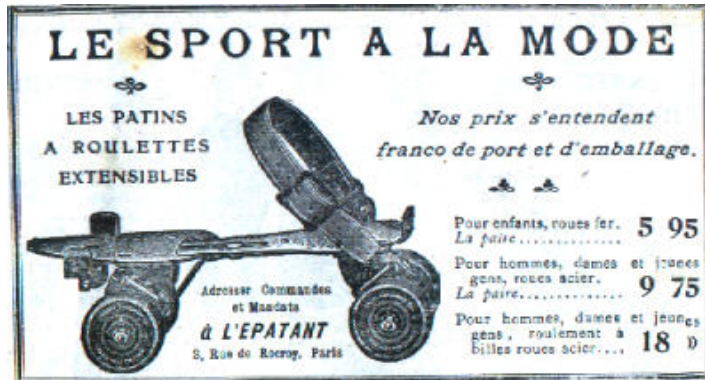
Vandelay Industries



Yummy Pockets - Taco

The History of Roller Skating

By **Miss Cellania** on Oct 25, 2010 at 6:43 am



I always enjoyed roller skating, but I gave it up for good about four years ago (to the relief of my embarrassed children). I had borrowed my oldest daughter's skates, which were built for stunts and have no brakes. That won't happen again. I just found out that roller skating goes back about 300 years:

...the devices never really took off until London inventor Joseph Merlin created a more refined version that comprised of boots with metal wheels on them. He used them to crash a party in a grand display by skating into the crowd while playing the violin. He almost immediately crashed into a wall-length mirror, which brought him even more attention ...although likely not what he was looking for.

Not to mention seven years bad luck! Read the events that make up the history of roller skating at Rue the Day. [Link](#)



COMMENT 0



EMAIL



TWEET



FACEBOOK 0

Diamond-Studded Saucepan

By **John Farrier** on Oct 25, 2010 at 6:42 am



This past weekend, Moscow hosted the Millionaire Fair. It's an exhibition of the world's most luxurious products, including a diamond-encrusted saucepan:

Its handle and lid were encrusted with nearly 300 diamonds and was decorated with 18-carat gold. It's made by German cookware brand Fissler. But wealthy cooks might be disappointed: the pan isn't

suitable for cooking.

"It is for serving food beautifully," brand manager Natalya Oreshkina said.

[Link](#) via **Born Rich** | Photo: Kostyukov/AP



COMMENT 1



EMAIL



TWEET



FACEBOOK 0

Mummy Meatloaf

By **Miss Cellania** on Oct 25, 2010 at 6:40 am



The perfect Halloween entree, composed of meatloaf, noodles, and olive eyes. Complete directions with meatloaf recipe can be found at Gather and Nest. [Link](#) -via **TYWKIWDBI**

 COMMENT 0  EMAIL  TWEET  FACEBOOK 0

Lillian La France

By **Miss Cellania** on Oct 25, 2010 at 6:38 am



In the Roaring Twenties, Lillian La France made a living as a stunt rider in the Motordrome circuit, performing in cars and on motorcycles for crowds around the U.S.

In 1894, Agnes was the second of nine girls born into honest-livin', hard-workin' Catholic family standards. She christened herself Lillian LaFrance and quickly shook the dust of her Kansas hometown from her boots sometime around 1916, and roared off to create the life she had always dreamt of, carving it raw as she went along. She began Motordrome riding in 1924, and left a blurry, yet brilliant legacy behind that still haunts many who are taken by the images of her incredible spirit staring back through squinty eyes in a copy of a

copy of old grainy photos. Incredible.

See pictures of this amazing woman at The Selvedge Yard. [Link](#) -via **Nag on the Lake**

 COMMENT 0  EMAIL  TWEET  FACEBOOK 0

Google Street View Safari

By **John Farrier** on Oct 25, 2010 at 6:35 am



Jed Stoneham of *Urlesque* gathered pictures from Google Street View that look like they were taken in wilderness areas. Pictured above is a scene from a road inside Addo Elephant National Park in South Africa.

[Link](#) | [Addo Elephant National Park](#)

 COMMENT 0

 EMAIL

 TWEET

 FACEBOOK 0

Vintage Cadillac Funeral Cars

By **The Nag** on Oct 25, 2010 at 5:20 am



How would you like to take your last earthly trip in a carved Cadillac Fleetwood Series 60 Special like this one? Owner, Fernando Aguerre, found two of these funeral cars in an antique barn in Argentina and had them restored by a body shop owner who also refinishes furniture in his spare time. He had the right combination of skills to bring these circa 1942 wooden beauties back to their former gaudy glory.

[Link](#) - Via [Dudecraft](#)

 COMMENT 0

 EMAIL

 TWEET

 FACEBOOK 1

Famous Trials: The Witches of Salem

By **Miss Cellania** on Oct 25, 2010 at 4:45 am

Here's a bit of American history we're all familiar with... but know almost nothing about. The B7E wants to change that, because we don't want witch trials -or with hunts- in our era. After all, someone just might decide that reading in the bathroom is a sign of demonic possession.



(Image credit: Flickr user [Lexie Rydberg](#))

BACKGROUND The trouble at Salem, Massachusetts, began with two young girls acting oddly. It explodes into one of the strangest cases of mass hysteria in American history. In the six-month period between March and September 1692, 27 people were convicted on witchcraft charges; 20 were executed, and more than 100 people were in prison awaiting trial.

CHILD'S PLAY

In March 1692, nine-year-old Betty Parris and her cousin Abigail Williams, 12, were experimenting with a fortune-telling trick they'd learned from Tituba, the Parris family's West Indian slave. To find out what kind of men they'd marry when they grew up, they put an egg white in a glass... and then studied the shape it made in the glass.

But instead of glimpsing their future husbands, the girls saw an image that appeared to be "in the likeness of a coffin." The apparition shocked them... and over the next few days they exhibited behavior that witnesses described as "foolish, ridiculous speeches," "odd postures," "distempers," and "fits."

Reverend Samuel Parris was startled by his daughter's condition and took her to see William Griggs, the family doctor. Griggs couldn't find out what was wrong with the girl, but he suspected the problem had supernatural origins. He told Rev Parris that he thought the girl had fallen victim to "the Evil Hand" -witchcraft.



The family tried to keep Betty's condition a secret, but rumors began spreading almost immediately -and within two months at least eight other girls began exhibiting similar forms of bizarre behavior.

THE PARANOIA GROWS

The citizens of Salem Village demanded that the authorities take action. The local officials subjected the young girls to intense questioning, and soon the girls began naming names. The first three women they accused of witchcraft were Tituba and two other women from Salem Village, Sarah Good and Sarah Osborne.





MARTHA CORY AND HER PERSECUTORS.

The three women were arrested and held for questioning. A few weeks later two more suspects, Martha Cory and Rebecca Nurse, were arrested on similar charges. And at the end of April a sixth person - the Reverend George Burroughs, a minister that Abigail Williams identified as the leader of the witches - was arrested and imprisoned. The girls continued to name names. By the middle of May, more than 100 people had been arrested for witchcraft.

THE TRIALS



On May 14, 1692, the newly appointed governor, Sir William Phips, arrived from England. He immediately set up a special court, the Court of Oyer and Terminer, to hear the witchcraft trials that were clogging the colonial legal system.

* The first case heard was that against Bridget Bishop. She was quickly found guilty of witchcraft, sentenced to death, and hung on June 10.

* On June 19 the court met a second time, and in a single day heard the cases of five accused women, found them all guilty, and sentenced them to death. They were hung on July 19.

* On August 5 the court heard six more cases, and sentenced all six women to

death. One woman, Elizabeth Proctor, was spared because she was pregnant- and the authorities did not want to kill an innocent life along with a guilty one. The remaining five women were executed on August 19.

* Six more people were sentenced to death in early September. (Only four were executed: one person was reprieved, and another woman managed to escape from prison with the help of friends.) The remaining sentences were carried out on September 22.

*Two days later, the trials claimed their last victim when Giles Cory, an accused wizard, was executed by "pressing" (he was slowly crushed to death under heavy weights) after he refused to enter a plea.





GILES COREY'S PUNISHMENT AND AWFUL DEATH.

REVERSAL OF FORTUNE

By now the hysteria surrounding the witch trials was at its peak: 19 accused “witches” had been hung, about 50 had “confessed” in exchange for lenient treatment, more than 100 people accused of witchcraft were under arrest and awaiting trial -and another 200 people had been accused of witchcraft but had not yet been arrested. Despite all this, the afflicted girls were still exhibiting bizarre behavior. But public opinion began to turn against the trials. Community leaders began to publicly question the methods that the courts used to convict suspected witches. The accused were denied access to defense counsel, and were tried in chains before jurors who had been chosen from church membership lists.

The integrity of the girls then came into question. Some of the adults even charged that they were faking their illnesses and accusing innocent people for the fun of it. One colonist even testified later that one of the bewitched girls had bragged to him that “she did it for sport.”

As the number of accused persons grew into the hundreds, fears of falling victim to witchcraft were replaced by an even greater fear: that of being falsely accused of witchcraft. The growing opposition to the proceedings came from all segments of society: common people, ministers - even from the court itself.

THE AFTERMATH

Once the tide had turned against the Salem witchcraft trials, many of the participants themselves began having second thoughts. Many of the jurors admitted their errors, witnesses recanted their testimony, and one judge on the Court of Oyer and Terminer, Samuel Sewall, publicly admitted his error on the steps of the Old South Church in 1697. The Massachusetts legislature made amends as well: in 1711 it reversed all of the convictions issued by the Court of Oyer and Terminer (and did it a second time in 1957), and it made financial restitution to the relatives of the executed, “the whole amount unto five hundred seventy eight pounds and twelve shillings.”



EXECUTION OF MRS. ANN HERRINS.



The article above is reprinted with permission from **Uncle John's Legendary Lost Bathroom Reader**.

This special edition book covers the three “lost” Bathroom Readers – Uncle John’s 5th, 6th and 7th book all in one. The huge (and hugely entertaining) volume covers neat stories like the Strange Fate of the Dodo Bird, the Secrets of Mona Lisa, and more ...

Since 1988, the Bathroom Reader Institute had published a series of popular books containing irresistible bits of trivia and **obscure yet fascinating facts**. Check out their website here: **Bathroom Reader Institute**

Uncle John's
**BATHROOM
READER**

Enormous Gummy Worms

By **John Farrier** on Oct 25, 2010 at 4:20 am

([Video Link](#))

Yes, this is a real product. It's 128 times the size of a normal gummy worm, weighs 3 pounds, and contains 4,000 calories. The candy is available in a variety of flavors.

[Link](#) via **Nerdcore**



Digg: A Cautionary Tale for Web 2.0 Companies?

By **Alex** on Oct 25, 2010 at 2:23 am



Redesigns are **fraught with potential problems**, but it seems that the implosion of Digg after its **latest redesign** serves as a particularly striking guide of what NOT to do.

Daniel Lyons of Newsweek wrote an interesting article about how Digg is a cautionary tale for Web 2.0 companies:

Digg's collapse has become a cautionary tale for so-called Web 2.0 companies in Silicon Valley, even the current crop of superstars, like Facebook and Twitter. The basic problem is that these new-media companies don't really have customers; they have audiences. Starting a company like Digg is less like building a traditional tech company (think Apple or HP) and more like launching a TV show. And perhaps, like TV shows, these companies are ephemeral in nature. People flock in for a while, then get bored and move on. [...]

But Digg's traffic had begun to slide even before the bad redesign, due to a much larger problem: Twitter. That site started out as a way to let people blast out 140-character posts, but has evolved into a way for people to pass along links to news items they find interesting. Williams insists that Twitter and Digg perform completely different tasks.

That's true. They are different. But this is how disruption happens in tech. It's hardly ever about direct competition. Rather, something comes out of left field and provides a new way to do something. There have been plenty of Digg clones, but none of them ever hurt Digg very much. And nobody could have predicted that Twitter would take the place of Digg—not even the guys who created Twitter. And, if history is a guide, Twitter itself will be disrupted by something equally impossible to predict. This is why Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg said at a conference a few months ago that "the biggest competitor for us is someone we haven't heard of."

Lord of the Rings Plushies

By **Alex** on Oct 25, 2010 at 2:08 am

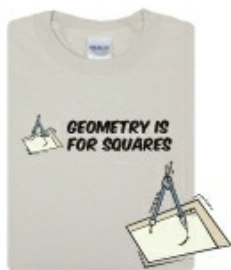


Lord of the Rings Plush - \$11.95 each

YOU SHALL NOT PASS ... up this opportunity to buy these incredibly cute Lord of the Rings plush from the **NeatoShop**. Gandalf, Legolas, Orc, and of course, Frodo (complete with hair feet!) are available at limited quantities.

[Link](#) | [More Plush Toys](#) | [Gift for Geeks](#)

Science T-Shirts from the **NeatoShop**:



Geometry Is For Squares



The Difference Between Biology, Chemistry and Physics



Support Bacteria

How Should We Improve Blogging Diversity on Neatorama?

By **Alex** on Oct 25, 2010 at 12:38 am



I've been blogging for 5 years now, and throughout the years, I haven't paid much attention to blogging awards – the **Webby**, the **bloggies** and so on – especially as the same usual suspects keep on appearing on the list.

So I was pleasantly surprised when Marilyn (AKA **The Nag**), sent me the link to the **2010 Canadian Blog Awards** (yes, she's a finalist and yes, I voted for her).

The blogs that appear on this particular award remind me of the good ol' days of blogging, which involve browsing a lot of obscure blogs to find the nuggets that end up as posts on Neatorama.

It's *a lot* of work going through all those blogs, and over the years, many bloggers

(yours truly included) have developed a list of "go to" blogs and websites to find stuff to post about. Efficiency goes up, but the downside is that I feel we lose a bit (or a lot) of variety (James Mowry of [Techi](#) complained that the reason the blogosphere is sooo lame is that **everything is the same**).

Indeed, there's a pressure to cover whatever is hot at the moment, even though it's been covered everywhere else. Sometimes things that we found go viral, so it seems like we did a me-too post. I don't know if everything **is** the same on the blogosphere (a survey would be interesting), but it sure feels like it sometimes (some of you've had lengthy discussions with me about the evolution of Neatorama's blog posts and the diversity of our sources).

So Neatoramans, let me ask you what you think: what can we do to improve diversity and highlight good (but obscure) microblogs? Should we create the Obbies (the Obscure Blog Awards)? Or is blogging diversity good enough on the blog and we should leave things as they are?

Links: [Canadian Blog Awards](#) by Jonathan Kleiman, where you can vote for [Nag on the Lake](#) if you want to; the list itself is worthy of browsing (that's where I found [XOXO Jess](#), the source of the post below). Good luck, Marilyn!

 COMMENT 4  EMAIL  TWEET  FACEBOOK 0

Man Rescued Baby from Dumpster, Found Out He's Actually the Father!

By [Alex](#) on Oct 25, 2010 at 12:33 am



Either this is the strangest coincidence ever, or there's more to the story. In a nutshell (or dumpster bin):

1. Man was walking when someone told him that there's a newborn crying in the dumpster.
2. Man rescued baby.

3. Man found out later that HE was the father of said baby (he didn't know his girlfriend was pregnant)

Is this a made for Lifetime story? You betcha:

"A girl said, 'I think I hear a baby in the Dumpster.' With no knowledge at the time that this is my kid whatsoever, I went running over there, stood beside the Dumpster, heard the baby cry," he said.

"I jumped in and removed the stuff. I personally opened the bag and uncovered all the stuff off," he said.

"My first sight of my baby was covered in garbage."

Jason van Rassel and Stephane Massinon of the Calgary Herald has more: [Link](#) (Photo: Leah Hennel/Calgary Herald) - via [XOXO Jes](#)

 COMMENT 0  EMAIL  TWEET  FACEBOOK 1

Star Wars Contest Winners!

By [David](#) on Oct 24, 2010 at 5:23 pm

If you follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#), you probably heard about our latest contest where we're giving away a Boba Fett Electronic Helmet and some new action figures: Dack Ralter, Cloud Car Pilot, and Boba Fett. Whelp, the contest is mostly over. I say "mostly" because now the real fun begins.

We've selected four winners at random. Two from Twitter and two from Facebook. Whoever reads this post first and leaves a comment gets his/her pick of the prizes first, then second, and so on!



So, are you ready to find out who the lucky four are? Read on...

[more ...](#)



COMMENT 8



EMAIL



TWEET



FACEBOOK 2

Inter // States

By **Ali S.** on Oct 24, 2010 at 5:19 pm

inter // states from **Samuel Cockedey** on **Vimeo**.

Hi folks! Well, Samuel Cockedey has told me he's gotten a brand new time-lapse video for you Neatoramans, lucky you! This time he's changed his from filming his fantastic soothing landscape vistas of Tokyo and has gotten down to the nitty-gritty of the city life full of it's hustle and bustle - specifically focusing upon the realm of transportation.

I can't help but watch in awe at how all the scenes coalesce into a well oiled machine of movement and light...one could easily (or rather naively!) imagine the light pulses and streams of activity like that of data flowing through a massive computer.

The music is in collaboration with Paul Frankland, aka Wbobb, an ambient/electronic artist whose stuff you can find in the link below. Also, just search for Samuel's name to see his other videos here on Neatorama! 😊 I highly suggest checking out the video in full screen mode or on the Vimeo site itself for a larger view...oh and plant on some headphones!

Samuel Cockedey - [Link](#)

Paul Frankland (aka Wbobb) - [Link](#)



COMMENT 0



EMAIL



TWEET



FACEBOOK 2

Japanese Professor Builds Humanoid Robot to Kill Wasps

By **John Farrier** on Oct 24, 2010 at 2:41 pm



Google Translate isn't doing too well, but I gather that a Japanese professor named Sekine was tired of getting stung by wasps in his laboratory. So he designed and built a mohawk-wearing fembot to climb a ladder and whack the wasps.

[Link](#) via [GearFuse](#) | Photos: Asahi

 **COMMENT** 4  **EMAIL**  **TWEET**  **FACEBOOK** 6

From the **Best of Neatorama**:



5 Juicy Back Stories on Famous Biologists



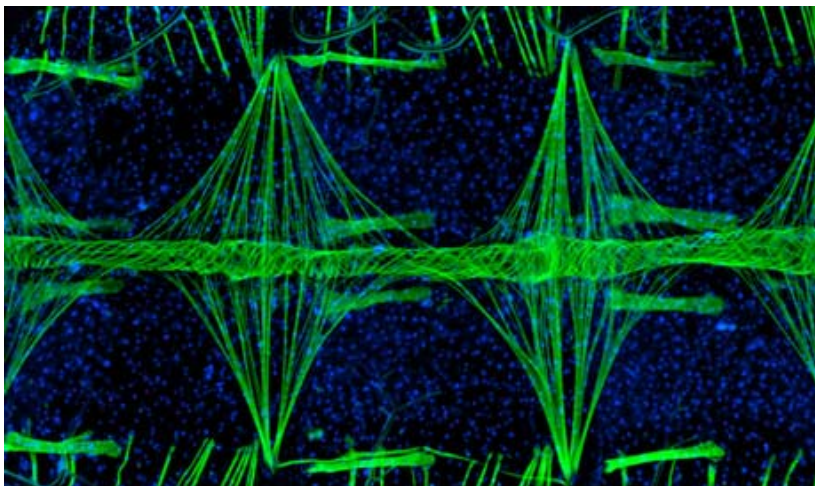
Catching Up With The A-Team



Top 10 Coolest BBQ Grills (And Then Some!)

Nikon Small World Awards

By **The Nag** on Oct 24, 2010 at 1:17 pm



The Nikon Small World Awards, now in their 35th year, celebrate photographs taken on a microscopic level by chemists, biologists, materials researchers and botanists. The images pack a strong visual effect. The photo above, a close up view of the heart of a mosquito, won first prize this year.

These works, selected by competition judges, include close-up photographs of iridescent crystals of the mineral caxoxenite; a starfish embryo; an extinct marine diatom; a butterfly egg nestling among the buds of a flower; trout alevin; and a caddis fly larva head.

Click the link below to see the submissions of winners and short-listed finalists in the competition.

[Link](#)

 COMMENT 0  EMAIL  TWEET  FACEBOOK 0

The Giant Norias of Hama

By **John Farrier** on Oct 24, 2010 at 12:46 pm



In the 12th Century A.D., the rulers of the city of Hama, Syria, built enormous waterwheels — *norias* — to carry water into the city. These were expanded and enhanced for several centuries:

Each of the wheels can be anything up to 20 meters in diameter (close to 70 feet) and the river water is channelled in to a sluice on the wheel. This flow then forces the wheel to turn and wood boxes raise the water upwards. At the top of the wheel there is an artificial channel in to which the water is discharged.

Using gravity, the water then flows through aqueduct channels to either households or farms in the vicinity. Just as math was used in the construction of the waterwheels so it was in working out the times at which people had access to the water. As a precious commodity it was important that it was shared fairly.

[Link](#) via **The Presurfer** | Photo by Flickr user **Ai@ce** used under Creative Commons license

 COMMENT 0  EMAIL  TWEET  FACEBOOK 0

We Make Carpets

By **John Farrier** on Oct 24, 2010 at 12:37 pm



We Make Carpets is an art collective consisting of Stijn van der Vleuten, Marcia Nolte, and Bob Waardenburg. They make temporary structures that resemble carpets from a distance, such as the one pictured above. It's actually made out of bricks, not fabric. They've also made carpets out of medical tape, cotton balls, balloons, and pasta.

[Link](#) via **Dude Craft** | Photo: Boudewijn Bollmann

 COMMENT 0

 EMAIL

 TWEET

 FACEBOOK 2

Steampunk Legend of Atlantis

By **The Nag** on Oct 24, 2010 at 3:11 am

([Vimeo Link](#))

Atlantis- An Inconvenient Truth, an animation created and produced by Christopher Hempel, Martin Kohler, Christian Stadach and Simon Prager, won the Team Entry Excellence Award at the **CG Society Steampunk Challenge** last year. It's a steam powered retelling of the legend of Atlantis.

 COMMENT 1

 EMAIL

 TWEET

 FACEBOOK 6

Cats Play Patty Cake

By **Miss Cellania** on Oct 23, 2010 at 8:38 pm

([YouTube link](#))

It's either a game of patty cake or the the most lackadaisical cat fight ever, right up on the computer desk. -via **The Daily What**

 **COMMENT** 2  **EMAIL**  **TWEET**  **FACEBOOK** 45

Muslims Wearing Things

By **Miss Cellania** on Oct 23, 2010 at 8:36 pm

The Tumblr blog Muslims Wearing Things was launched as a reaction to former NPR analyst **Juan Williams** saying he gets nervous when he sees people in Muslim garb on planes. Looking through the pictures of the things Muslims wear, I was reminded of **a neat bit of casting** I knew about but had forgotten.



Prince Abdullah (now King Abdullah II) of Jordan, wearing a Starfleet uniform in a 1996 episode of Star Trek: Voyager.

Then there's **reality**.



US Army Specialist and Muslim Kareem Rashad Sultan Khan wore camouflage, up until the day he was killed in combat in Iraq, fighting for his country.

[Link](#) -via [Metafilter](#)

 **COMMENT** 33  **EMAIL**  **TWEET**  **FACEBOOK** 9

Life-Size Monopoly House

By **John Farrier** on Oct 23, 2010 at 4:07 pm



Toronto-based Taiwanese Artist An Te Liu made this house. It's 2009 work called *Title Deed* and is located in Willowdale, Ontario.

[Link](#) ([Google Translate](#)) via [Make](#) | [Artist's Website](#) | Photo by the artist

 **COMMENT** 6  **EMAIL**  **TWEET**  **FACEBOOK** 16

TrustoCorp's Public Art



TrustoCorp is a New York City-based art collective that spreads messages to the public by creating signs or shopdropping. Its Flickr photostream is filled with works similar to the sign above.

[Flickr Photostream](#) and [Official Website](#) via [Super Punch](#)

Previously: [Is Shopdropping \(Reverse Shoplifting\) a Crime?](#)

 COMMENT 5  EMAIL  TWEET  FACEBOOK 14

Bomb Squad Summoned to Defuse Box Full of Kittens

By John Farrier on Oct 23, 2010 at 3:24 pm



A box was found unattended on the front steps of the Social Security office in Cocoa Beach, Florida. The bomb squad rushed to the scene to defuse what employees feared might be a bomb. It turned out to be a box full of kittens:

The bomb squad quickly suited up and headed to the scene to defuse the situation. Once they arrived on scene, specialists found a box slightly stirring. There was no "tick-tock," but a different familiar sound. Meow.

A quick examination by the experts determined the box's contents was about to explode - with cute and cuddliness. Inside were two kittens, which the bomb squad manual states is more dangerous to a ball of yarn than to an office building.

[Link](#) via [Gizmodo](#) | Photo (unrelated) via Flickr user [abcrumley](#) used under Creative Commons license

 COMMENT 8  EMAIL  TWEET  FACEBOOK 66

Scientists: Chupacabras are Just Coyotes with Mange

By **John Farrier** on Oct 23, 2010 at 3:19 pm



Chupacabras are legendary creatures said to roam North America at night. They've been **occasionally sighted**, but never definitively proven real. Some researchers now think that they're actually just coyotes with severe cases of mange. Barry O'Connor of the University of Michigan explained:

*[...] the mite responsible for the extreme hair loss seen in "chupacabras syndrome" is *Sarcoptes scabiei*, which also causes the itchy rash known as scabies in people. Human scabies is an annoyance, but not usually a serious health or appearance problem, partly because our bodies are already virtually hairless and partly because the population of mites on a given person usually is relatively small—only 20 or 30 mites.*

Humans have likely evolved natural defenses for this mite over the years. When we began to domesticate dogs, we likely spread the mites to them. When the mites then transfer to wild dogs, such as foxes, wolves and coyotes, the victims appear to be less able to fight them off.[...]

In these unfortunate animals, large numbers of mites burrowing under the skin cause inflammation, which results in thickening of the skin. Blood supply to hair follicles is cut off, so the fur falls out. In especially bad cases, the animal's weakened condition opens the door to bacteria that cause secondary skin infections, sometimes producing a foul odor. Put it all together, and you've got an ugly, naked, leathery, smelly monstrosity: the chupacabras.

Link via **Slashdot** | Photo by Flickr user **justinjohnsen** used under Creative Commons license



COMMENT 7



EMAIL



TWEET



FACEBOOK

16

Ads by
Google

Start Your Blog for Free

Launch Your Blog in 5 mins w/ Award
Winning Tools & Premium Blog Themes
www.TypePad.com

Neat Posts From Around The Web:



12 Geeky Monopoly Board Games



Must See Film: Exit Through The Gift Shop



12 Funniest 'No Parking' Signs



The 10 Greatest Archetypal Swords



How to get Millions to Read Your Website



Google Maps Envelopes

NEXT PAGE
(older posts)



NEATORAMA STUFF

[Contact Us](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)

SUBMIT A LINK

By [Email](#)

GET NEATORAMA BY EMAIL

Email:



AUTHORS' BLOGS

[Ape Lad](#), [GeekAlerts](#), [I met a possum](#),
[Miss Cellania](#), [Rue the Day](#), [The Litter Box](#), [TYWKIWDBI](#), [Zeray Gazette](#)

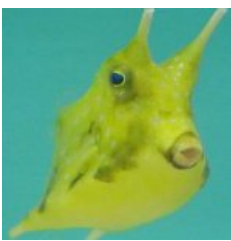
[List of Authors](#)



Neat Posts From Around the Web:



\$60K Chewing-Gum Sculptures!



Most Awesome Fish Ever: The Cowfish!



12 Unexpectedly Funny Google Results



Crazy Russians Jump 5 Stories Into the Snow



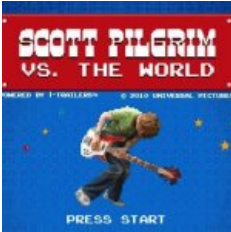
Science is Sexy: What is Evolution?



I Am A Stuffed Animal



12 Bizarre Fines



Scott Pilgrim Interactive Trailer Reinvents Film Promo



Salesman Pete



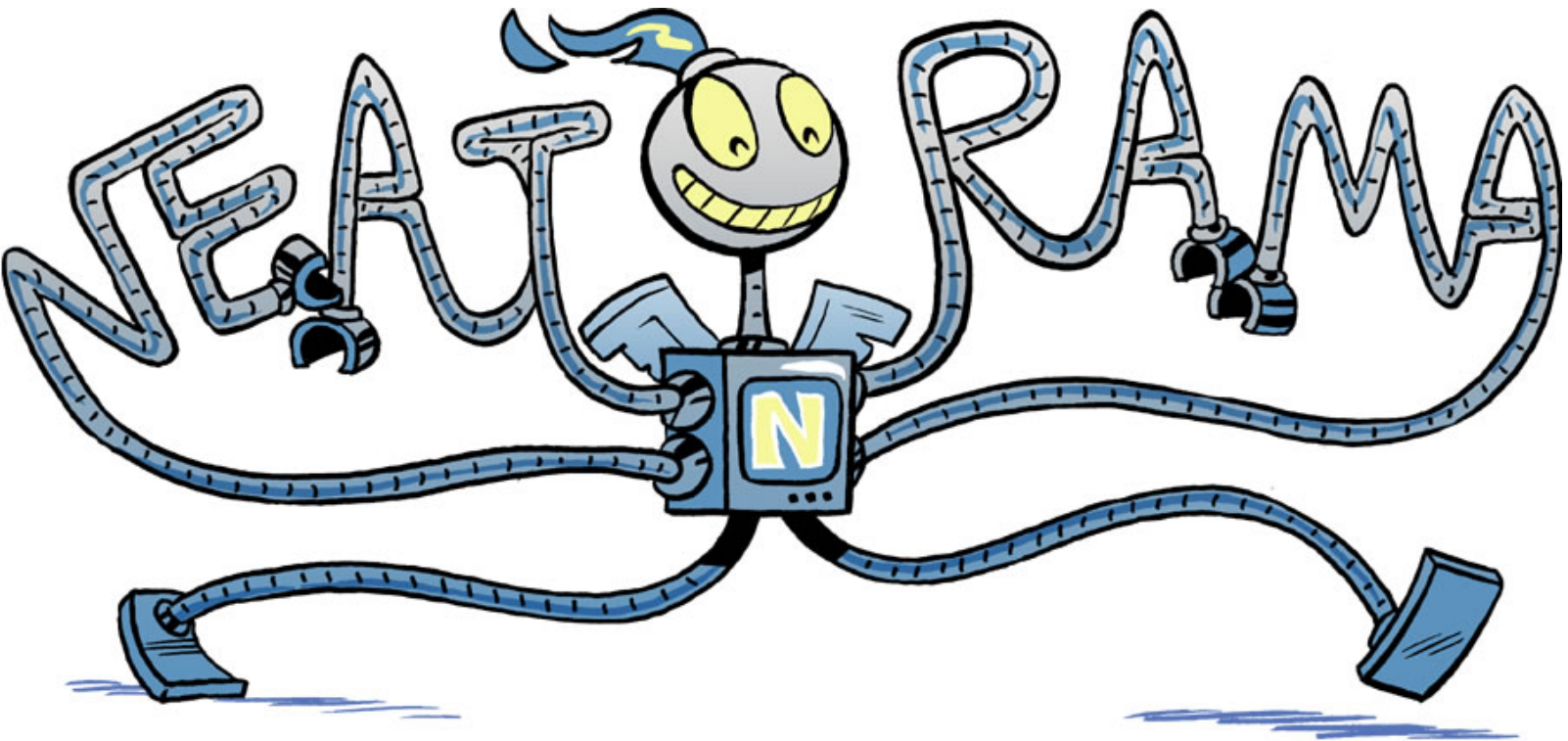
Google Maps Envelopes



9 Strangest Vacations



30 Astounding Science Geeks



Design by **Adam Koford**